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1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, General George Washington created the Order of the
3 Purple Heart for Military Merit, now commonly called the Purple
4 Heart, during the Revolutionary War; and

5 WHEREAS, Desiring to cherish a virtuous ambition in his
6 soldiers, General Washington created the Badge of Military
7 Merit for any singularly meritorious action performed by a
8 soldier; and

9 WHEREAS, The Purple Heart is awarded to a member of the
10 United States Armed Forces who is wounded or killed in action
11 as a result of enemy activity; and

12 WHEREAS, The Purple Heart is a symbol of courage and
13 devotion; purple was chosen because it was associated with
14 royalty and would stand out on any uniform; and

15 WHEREAS, In addition to lauding instances of unusual
16 gallantry, the Purple Heart serves as a symbol of extraordinary
17 fidelity and essential service; and

18 WHEREAS, The first three Purple Heart recipients were
19 Sergeant Elijah Churchill, Fourth Troop, Second Troop of Light
20 Dragoons; Sergeant William Brown of the 5th Connecticut

1 Regiment; and Sergeant Daniel Bissell of the 2nd Connecticut
2 Regiment; and

3 WHEREAS, General Douglas MacArthur revived the Badge of
4 Military Merit in 1931 for the bicentennial of George
5 Washington's birth; the reissued medal is a gold-plated brass
6 heart with a bust of Washington in the center and the
7 Washington family coat of arms at the top; and

8 WHEREAS, A group of combat wounded veterans in Ansonia,
9 Connecticut formed the first chapter of a civilian organization
10 for Purple Heart recipients; and

11 WHEREAS, Other states throughout the country have
12 designated themselves as Purple Heart States; and

13 WHEREAS, The people of Illinois have great admiration and
14 the utmost gratitude for all the men and women who have
15 selflessly served their country; and

16 WHEREAS, Illinois' veterans have given their lives so we
17 can maintain our freedom and way of life; and

18 WHEREAS, It is fitting to honor combat-wounded veterans for
19 their service and sacrifice; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
3 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we declare the State of Illinois as a
4 Purple Heart State; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That we give our thanks to all of those who have
6 served and sacrificed their lives for our State and country;
7 and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to Hayes-Krell Chapter 159.